

REPORT TO: ARTS & HERITAGE COMMITTEE - 16 APRIL 2001

**REPORT ON: DUNDEE REPERTORY THEATRE MAIN HOUSE
- REVENUE SUPPORT 2001-2002**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ARTS AND HERITAGE

REPORT NO: 202-2001

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To submit to the Committee a request for renewal of revenue funding to Dundee Repertory Theatre Main House 2001-2002.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Committee approves the level of grant funding amounting to £253,424 as set out in the Report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The funding requested, as shown in the Budget at Appendix 1, is £253,424.

3.2 This expenditure will be met from the Arts and Heritage Revenue Budget 2001-2002.

3.3 The terms and conditions of grant will be contained within a Funding Agreement 2001-2002, between Dundee City Council and Dundee Repertory Theatre Main House.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The renewal of revenue funding to Dundee Repertory Theatre Main House will ensure the continued provision of a popular cultural service, that local needs are met locally, and that opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are readily available to all.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The mission statement of Dundee Repertory Theatre Main House is "to provide the highest possible performing arts service to Dundee and to be central to the cultural life of Dundee by investing in opportunities for those communities who may not normally benefit from mainstream arts provision". Recent building alternations provide full disabled access to all public areas. Access is further facilitated by the operation of a range of discount and concessionary ticket offers.

5.2 The Funding Agreement 2001-2002 will contain requirements that Dundee Repertory Theatre Main House practise equal opportunities policies in respect of its public and staff.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 The year 2000-2001 was the second year of Dundee Repertory Theatre's high profile project called "New Ways of Working" and included the first Summer Festival in June and July which involved six productions played in repertoire. "New Ways of Working" is a three year project designed to build on the artistic and financial successes of the organisation by investing in the quality, range and scale of work produced, and by upgrading the theatre's facilities to take its place as part of Dundee's cultural quarter.

6.2 During 2000-2001 the resident company:-

- Produced 6 new large-scale productions including Europe's only professional production of "Cabaret", and the world premier of the melodrama with music "The Land of Cakes" by local playwright Don Paterson and local composer Gordon Macpherson.
- Presented two platform productions
- Commenced Saturday morning sessions of story-telling for children
- Presented the 6 week Summer Festival in June and July making a high profile contribution to the attraction of visitors and tourists to the city.
- Took productions of "All My Sons" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" to Aberdeen, and "All My Sons" to Inverness.

The theatre continues to offer a range of work for varied audiences including late night comedy, jazz and guitar festivals, jazz club in the foyer, contemporary dance and visits by Scotland's leading touring companies.

6.3 The Lottery funded capital project finished on time and on budget providing:-

- A full wing space, allowing the running of plays in repertoire
- Fully flexible forestage allowing a larger number of configurations depending upon the production.
- Additional storage facilities
- New workshop and production office
- New offices and training room for the Community Drama Department and Scottish Dance Theatre.

The work was completed without closing the theatre during the financial year.

6.4 Dundee Repertory Theatre contributes to the stock of new Scottish plays by commissioning new works. For 2001 new plays have been commissioned from Forbes Masson, Liz Lochhead, Stuart Paterson and Anne Downie.

6.5 The annual audience figure for 2000-2001 has exceeded 70,000 and the organisation has earned £500,000 in sales and touring fees. It has secured a further £275,000 from the Lottery and trusts towards the additional costs of "New Ways of Working". Of the Summer Festival attendees, 32% were tourists and 32% were new attenders to Dundee Rep Theatre. The marketing post of Tourism and Groups Officer works on designing links with Dundee's other tourist and visitor attractions, packages with local hotels, promoting the Summer Festival nation-wide and commissioning a website to facilitate information to, and bookings from, the overseas market. The theatre's website went live in November 2000 and on-line ticket sales followed in December.

6.6 Major plans for 2001-2002 include:-

- The second Summer Season, comprising 6 large scale productions is planned for 11 June - 21 July
- These six productions will join the theatre's repertoire together with Platform Productions and Telling Tales sessions.

- New works commissioned from leading Scottish playwrights.
- A production of "The Seagull" by a director, designer and composer team from Lithuania.
- The revival and presentation of existing productions in Scotland's other major theatres in Aberdeen, Inverness, Glasgow and Edinburgh.
- Ongoing skills workshops in voice, movement, music and language.
- The second year of the theatre apprenticeship scheme.
- The development of the new tourist/visitor audience base including further packages with local tourist facilities and attractions.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Support Services, Director of Finance and Director of Corporate Planning have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

Director of Arts and Heritage _____ Date _____

DUNDEE REPERTORY THEATRE**APPENDIX 1**

	Projected Out-turn 2000-2001	Projected Budget 2001-2002
Expenditure		
Staff costs, production costs, marketing costs, general overheads.	1,354,197	1,413,163
Income		
Box Office, catering and ancillary earned income, sponsorship	521,799	537,941
Grants		
Dundee City Council	247,243	253,424
Dundee City Council Project	2,000	-
SAC Revenue	278,116	286,459
SAC Special	16,900	28,844
Additional Fundraising		
New Writing Grants	9,084	16,768
Confirmed Trusts/Fundraising	143,718	70,000
Target Trusts/Sponsorship	13,500	88,000
ERDF	8,361	2,170
Lottery	114,006	129,806
Total Income	1,354,727	1,413,412
Year Result	530	249